

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DPW-01 PRS-01 DODE-00

IO-15 DRC-01 /104 W

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R 111013Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0319

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T BUDAPEST 3410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR VS HU

SUBJECT: ICCS: FORTHCOMING BOOK OF ATROCITY PICTURES.

REFS: 1) STATE 195113; 2) SAIGON 17142; 3) BUDAPEST 3325

1. AMBASSADOR ON OCTOBER 10 TOOK UP ISSUE OF LT. COL. MATE BOOK OF ATROCITY PICTURES WITH VARKONYI (DEPT V, FONOFF). OBSERVED THAT HE HAD PRESENTED OUR VIEWS ON HUNGARIAN BEHAVIOR IN ICCS TO ALL KEY GOH OFFICIALS. GOH ACCORDINGLY MUST CLEARLY BE AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF OUR CONCERN. SAID HE PLANNED TO CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AS THEY AROSE.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ONE SUCH PROBLEM NOW PRESENTED ITSELF IN A BOOK BY LT. COL. MATE -- CONVEYING DETAILS PRESENTED REFTEL. ADDED THAT IT APPEARED TO EMBASSY THAT MATE IS PROBABLY FORMER NEPSZABADSAG REPORTER AND EX-EDITOR OF FORMER ERDEKES UJSAG. IN ANY CASE, ISSUANCE OF WHAT COULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS PROPAGANDA DOCUMENT CONTAINING ATROCITY PICTURES TOGETHER WITH PICTURES OF PRESIDENT NIXON, US CHILDREN, CARRIERS, ETC. COULD ONLY CREATE FURTHER DIFFICULTIES WITH US ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN VIETNAM. SAID WE WERE NOT CLEAR WHETHER BOOK HAD YET BEEN ISSUED, AND IF IT HAD NOT WE HOPED FONOFF WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO PREVENT

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ITS PUBLICATION.

3. VARKONYI SAID HE WOULD PASS ON INFORMATION (WHICH OBVIOUSLY WAS NEW TO HIM) AND OUR COMMENTS TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. BRIEFLY REVIEWED THEIR VIEWS ON VIETNAM IN STANDARD TERMS, INCLUDING DIFFICULTY OF VIETNAM ASSIGNMENT AND VIEW THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO IMPAIR BILATERAL RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT PRINCIPAL MESSAGE HE HAD SOUGHT TO CONVEY TO GOVERNMENT WAS THAT VIETNAM ISSUE COULD NOT IN FACT BE SEPARATED FROM REST OF OUR RELATIONS. VARKONYI SAID THAT THEIR POLICY WAS TO DO SO, BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD IN SITUATION LIKE THIS THAT ATTITUDES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE INVOLVED.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH FOR BOOK IN STORES HERE, THOUGH IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY TO US IT WILL FIRST APPEAR ELSEWHERE, AND WE WILL FOLLOW THROUGH AGAIN IN WEEK OR TEN DAYS IF WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED REPLY BY THAT TIME. PEDERSEN

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NNN

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